

## WHAT IS CLAIMED, IS

1. A method for selecting rating limits in a program content filtering system, wherein said rating limits  
5 define whether programs are to be blocked or are deemed to be acceptable, comprising:
  - reproducing information about a rating example;
  - supplying at least one recommended rating assigned to said rating example;
  - 10 detecting an user indication about the acceptability of said rating example;
  - assigning said user indication to said recommended rating; and
  - deriving a rating limit in response to assigning said  
15 user indication to said recommended rating.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of reproducing, supplying, detecting and assigning are repeated for a plurality of rating examples and a  
20 respective plurality of recommended ratings to provide a plurality of user indications for said plurality of recommended ratings and a plurality of assignments of said plurality of user indications to respective ones of said plurality of recommended ratings, and wherein the step of  
25 deriving a rating limit occurs in response to said plurality of assignments.
3. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
30 storing said rating limits;  
receiving programs comprising multimedia content and

assigned recommended ratings;

comparing said stored rating limits with said  
received assigned recommended ratings; and

denying access to programs exceeding at least one of  
5 the rating limits.

4. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
programs are television programs and wherein said program  
content filtering system is a parental control system.

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5. The method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said  
television programs are received as an analogue television  
signal and said assigned recommended ratings are received  
in the vertical blanking interval of said analogue  
15 television signal.

6. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the  
recommended ratings define the age of the viewer the  
program is designed for, the degree of a certain program  
20 content, or a combination thereof.

7. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the  
reproduced information about the rating examples is  
displayed to the user and comprises one or more of the  
25 following:

Title, description, topics, theme, picture, summary, short  
trailer, recommended rating, explanation of recommended  
rating.

30 8. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said  
user indications comprise various degrees of  
acceptability.

9. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples are received  
5 within electronic program guide information.

10. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples are stored in a  
10 receiver device.

11. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein for a networked device said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating  
15 examples are stored in a remote server.

12. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information about rating examples and said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples are selected by  
20 the user from the normal EPG program schedule.

13. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein currently broadcasted programs are used as information about rating examples and wherein recommended ratings  
25 broadcast embedded into said currently broadcast programs are used as said recommended ratings assigned to said rating examples.

14. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein an  
30 overview of derived rating limits is displayed.

15. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the

derived rating limits can be manually amended.

16. Apparatus comprising:

means for receiving programming including rating  
5 information; and

control means responsive to the rating information and  
to a rating limit for providing content filtering of the  
programming; wherein the control means comprises:

means for providing information about a rating  
10 example; and

means for deriving the rating limit in response to an  
indication from a user about the acceptability of the  
rating example.

15 17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the information  
providing means provides information about a plurality of  
rating examples and the rating limit deriving means  
derives the rating limit in response to a plurality of  
indications from a user about the acceptability of  
20 respective ones of the plurality of rating examples.

18. Television apparatus with a parental control  
system, comprising:

a processor for executing a rating limits  
25 application, wherein said rating limits application  
provides rating examples and processes user indication  
about the acceptability of said rating examples in order  
derive rating limits from said user indications;

an OSD generator for generating screen displays  
30 reproducing information about said rating examples;  
a display for displaying said screen displays;  
an input interface for detecting user indications

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Symbol	Unit	Value	Symbol	Unit	Value
$\alpha_1$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_2$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_3$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_4$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_5$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_6$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_7$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_8$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_9$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{10}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{11}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{12}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{13}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{14}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{15}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{16}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{17}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{18}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{19}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{20}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{21}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{22}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{23}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{24}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{25}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{26}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{27}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{28}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{29}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{30}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{31}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{32}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{33}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{34}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{35}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{36}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{37}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{38}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{39}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{40}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{41}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{42}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{43}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{44}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{45}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{46}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{47}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{48}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{49}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{50}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{51}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{52}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{53}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{54}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{55}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{56}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{57}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{58}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{59}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{60}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{61}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{62}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{63}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{64}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{65}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{66}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{67}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{68}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{69}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{70}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{71}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{72}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{73}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{74}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{75}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{76}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{77}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{78}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{79}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{80}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{81}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{82}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{83}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{84}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{85}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{86}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{87}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{88}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{89}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{90}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{91}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{92}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{93}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{94}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{95}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{96}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{97}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{98}$	deg	10.0
$\alpha_{99}$	deg	10.0	$\alpha_{100}$	deg	10.0